



**Growing Together
at Glynwood**

Glynwood Gardens
Gateshead
Tyne & Wear
NE9 5SY
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March 2026
Friday 20 th March - Red Nose Day - non-uniform day for a charitable donation
Tuesday 24 th March - Dance Festival for all Reception and some Y5 children
Friday 27 th March - Faith Day - Parents/ Carers into class to look at children's RE work from 2:45pm
April 2026
Thursday 2 nd April - Last Day of term for pupils
Monday 20 th April - Pupils return to school
Wednesday 22 nd April - Earth Day - wear something green!
May 2026
Monday 4 th May - Bank Holiday - School closed
Monday 11 th May - Thursday 14 th May Year Six SATs week
Friday 22 nd May - Last Day of the half term
June 2026
Monday 1 st June - pupils return to school
Monday 1 st June - Friday 5 th June - Year Four multiplication check
Monday 8 th June - Friday 12 th June - Phonics screening
Friday 12 th June - Rainbow Day - Diversity Celebration - Children to wear non-school uniform
Monday 15 th June - Thursday 25 th June - Glynwood Art, Craft and Music Festival
Wednesday 24 th June and Thursday 25 th June - Glynwood Art festival exhibition opens
Thursday 25 th June - 3:30pm - 4:30pm - Summer Fair
Friday 26 th June - School Closed to pupils
July 2026
Friday 10 th July - Reports out to pupils
Friday 17 th July - 9:15am - Year Six Leavers Assembly
Friday 17 th July - Last Day of academic year 2025-26
September 2026
Tuesday 1 st September - Teacher Training Day - school closed to pupils
Wednesday 2 nd September - pupils return to school for new academic year.



Glynwood Community
Primary School
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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy week in school, but one filled with lots of fun activities. The pupils and staff looked amazing in their World Book Day costumes and all the effort was definitely worth it. We had some fantastic activities in class as well as lovely paired reading sessions between older and younger pupils and a fabulous masked reader competition to finish off the day.

Sport update -Our school football team started off their league campaign in winning style with a 2-1 victory over Brighton Avenue. Well done to the boys and girls who performed so well in the match.

Upcoming events

- Science week - next week is science week in school so hopefully there will be lots of fun activities throughout the week. Look out for any Parentmail messages from your child's class teacher in case they need to bring in anything from home.
- Red Nose Day - Friday 20th March will be a non-uniform day
- Easter Egg competition and Bonnet parades will be happening in the next few weeks, so get those creative juices flowing!
- Parent and Carers consultations. Dates for these will be sent out in the next week with most occurring during the last week of March or the first week after the Easter break.

Donations

- If you have any wellies from size 2 upwards that could be used in school for things like Forest school, Mrs Allom would be most grateful.
- Early Years would appreciate any old farm toys or vehicles.
- Year 1 would like any spare jigsaws or games.

Reading book reminder - if possible please try to continue to read with your child at home and remember to bring books and reading folders each day into school. This does have a big impact on the children and their learning - the better they can read, the easier everything is!

Ear Rings - The usual reminder about these should not be worn in school or be taped up if they have been recently pierced. Thank you.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

With my best wishes

Mr Otterson



♥ PINS Coffee Morning

Come along and meet with Gateshead Parent Carer Forum in school for a relaxed PINS coffee morning – a friendly space for parent carers of neurodiverse children to chat, share experiences, and feel supported.

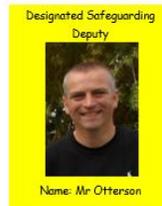
★ What to Expect

- A relaxed, welcoming atmosphere
- Tea, coffee, and sweet treats
- Space to chat about challenges and successes
- Helpful conversations about SEND support in mainstream schools
- A chance to connect with other parent carers

When

-28/01/2026	1.30 – 2.30
-19/02/2026	10.00 – 12.00
-26/03/2026	10.00 – 12.00

Our Safeguarding Children Team



If you are concerned about a child, please talk to us

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Child Protection and Safeguarding are always an absolute priority in school. Our designated safeguarding leads and deputies are: Vicky Nellis (Head Teacher), Simon Otterson (Deputy Head), Sarah Brunskill (Assistant Head), Esther Commons (SENDco), Jude Etherington (Curriculum leader), Vic Birkbeck (Family Support Worker), Helen Moss (Afterschool club lead). Please talk to any of us about any concerns that you may have. Posters displaying photos of the designated safeguarding leads are displayed around school.

If you have concerns about a child in your community, you have a number of options:

- 1) You can call 101 and ask for some welfare advice. This can be done anonymously.
- 2) You can visit the NSPCC website on: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/report/> or you can call the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000, You can report concerns here anonymously too.



Glywood Community
Primary School

Dear Families,

It is really important that we work together to improve attendance for all of our children. One area which can be contentious is term-time holiday requests. We need families to be open and transparent regarding holidays (for safeguarding reasons and so children aren't asked to lie), but the statutory and legal guidance around this is much stricter and is a national priority for the government.

I know that the vast majority of families do not take term-time holidays, so I apologise for the blanket communication, but it is vital that families understand the systems and the legal guidance.

Leave of absence forms should continue to be completed for **ALL** requests. If you feel that you have exceptional circumstances around a term time leave of absence request for your child (as in there are exceptional reasons why the absence has to take place on a very specific date in term time for an exceptional reason (as outlined below)) then this needs to be outlined in writing. I will then consider the information provided to me and the decision will be made whether to authorise the absence, but again I must reinforce, I can now only authorise term-time leave of absence requests in the most exceptional circumstances and these will be very rare.

Holidays will not be authorised.

I am more than happy to discuss any aspect of your child's learning or well-being and have an open-door policy for this, however **term-time leave of absence procedures are very clear and I am not willing to discuss decisions made with families.** I will also not discuss other children's absences for confidentiality and GDPR reasons. When guidance is very clear, as it is now, questioning decisions made puts everyone in a difficult position and can put a strain on relationships between school and families, which we want to avoid at all costs. Aggressive communication towards staff will also not be accepted for any reason, including communication around term-time leave of absence requests.

Please see the guidance below which is taken from our Attendance Policy which meets the legal and statutory requirements set out by the Department for Education. This is the same as the communication sent out to parents in previous newsletters.

Best wishes

Vicky Nellis

Head Teacher

4.1 Approval for term-time absence

The headteacher will only grant a leave of absence to a pupil during term time if they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'. A leave of absence is granted at the headteacher's discretion, including the length of time the pupil is authorised to be absent.

We define 'exceptional circumstances' as **where there are unavoidable reasons for the leave of absence not falling during school holiday time. For example, visiting a very sick relative in a different area or country, an immediate family member's wedding or an immediate family member's funeral. Exceptional Circumstances also apply if a child is involved in sporting or creative events, but school do need evidence of these dates.**

Exceptional circumstances are truly exceptional and this will be applied consistently across all requests.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant context behind the request.

Any request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated and, where possible, at least 3 weeks before the absence, and in accordance with any leave of absence request form, accessible via the school office or the school website. The headteacher may require evidence to support any request for a leave of absence.

4.3 Legal sanctions

The local authority can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age.

Warning letters are no longer issued.

If issued a fine, or penalty notice, each parent must pay £80 within 21 days or £160 within 28 days. The payment must be made directly to the local authority.

Penalty notices can be issued by a local authority officer or the police.

The decision on whether or not to issue a penalty notice may take into account:

- The number of unauthorised absences occurring within a rolling academic year
- One-off instances of irregular attendance, such as holidays taken in term time without permission
- Where an excluded pupil is found in a public place during school hours without a justifiable reason

If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute or withdraw the notice.

The first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

- A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.
- A third penalty notice **cannot be issued** to the same parent in respect of the same child **within 3 years of the date of issue** of the first. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action should be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution, but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.



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